

Ongoing Classes

Torah Study

Saturdays, 9:00 to 10:00 AM; in person, via livestream, and on Zoom

Led by Beth Am Clergy

We focus on a thoughtful reading of the weekly Torah portion, exploring the historical, ethical and spiritual questions raised by the text. Every session offers learning, lively interchange and ample opportunity for questions and discussion.

Talmud Study

Thursdays, 12:00 - 1:00 PM, Conference Room and Zoom

Led by Rabbi Sarah Weissman

Delve into the world of the Sages along with a lively group of participants. The focus is on understanding what the texts meant to our ancestors and what they might mean to us today.

Slow Torah: Lay-Led Torah Study Class

Sundays, 9:00 AM, Zoom

Led by Beth Am Congregants

Slow Torah is a new lay-led class that continues the Beth Am tradition of studying the Torah verse by verse. The class rotates discussion leaders each week and participants are encouraged to share sources or insights related to the verse(s) we're studying. Just bring your curiosity, yourself and your love of learning and studying Torah, real slow.

These classes are open to all and are designed for participants to drop in when they can, with no prior knowledge necessary.

Jewish Spirituality

Thursdays, 1:30-3:00 PM, Zoom

Led by Beth Am Congregants

Come explore various Jewish beliefs, from traditional to modern, about the meaning of our lives and our world. Through the exploration of a variety of texts, we study what it means to lead a Jewish life in the modern world. For more information, contact Carol Emerich at songspirit@me.com.

Reading Group

Fridays, 1:00-2:00 PM, Zoom

Led by Beth Am Congregants

This lay-led group is an outgrowth of the longest-running, continuous study group at Beth Am. Join us on Fridays from 1-2 pm for explorations of contemporary Jewish writings. We read aloud and discuss at length. In early August, we began a new book: *The Chosen Few: How Education Shaped Jewish History*, by Maristella Botticini. Contact Joan Karlin (karlinj@gmail.com) for the Zoom link.



We hope to offer many of these classes in person, but will make a final decision close to each class's start date based on the current health regulations and recommendations.

The most up-to-date information, including registration information, will be on the Beth Am website: betham.org/adult-education



Questions? Please contact Rabbi Sarah Weissman at rabbi_weissman@betham.org or 650-493-4661



Congregation Beth Am Adult Education Classes 5782 | 2021-2022

They don't call us the "People of the Book" for nothing! For two thousand years, learning has been one of the cornerstones of Jewish life and practice. We continue this tradition at Beth Am, where there are numerous opportunities for intellectual and spiritual growth with a committed and enthusiastic community of learners.

This year, we have an exciting program of new classes and teachers as well as our "oldies but goodies."

Fall Semester

Hebrew for Adults

Classes Begin After Rosh Hashanah

Whether you'd like to learn the Aleph Bet, be able to follow along in the prayerbook at services, or chat with your Israeli friends in Hebrew, we have a class for you! Contact Orna Morad (ornamorad1@gmail.com) for help in finding the correct class for you. To request a scholarship, please contact Rabbi Sarah Weissman.

To register, visit betham.org/adult-hebrew-2021.

Beginning Prayerbook Hebrew

Taught by Lisa Rauchwerger

Tuesdays, 10/5/21-3/29/22, 7:00-8:15 PM

Tuition: \$500

Modern Hebrew

Taught by Orna Morad

Tuition: \$200

Level B2: Thursdays, 9/9-12/2, 9:00-10:15 AM

Level C: Tuesdays, 9/14-12/14, 6:00-7:15 PM

Level D: Thursdays, 9/9-12/2, 10:30-11:45 AM

Level E: Thursdays, 9/9-12/2, 6:00-7:15 PM,

Level F: Tuesdays, 9/9-12/14, 11:00 AM - 12:15 PM

Hebrew Mastery: Thursdays, 9/9-12/2, 7:30-8:45 PM

Judaism 101... For Everyone

Tuesdays, 10/5/21-3/5/22, 7:30-9:00 PM, Zoom

Taught by Beth Am Clergy

This course is for anyone who wishes to learn (or re-learn) about Judaism. Students will learn the basics in a friendly and informal atmosphere. We'll explore Jewish practices, beliefs, history, literature and the significance of Israel in Judaism today. There will also be a few field trips and other experiences. This is a wonderful way to become part of the Beth Am community, meet new people, and develop relationships with the Beth Am clergy.

Tuition: \$100/semester for members, \$200/semester for non-members

Register here: betham.org/event/intro-to-judaism-5782

Philosophy Minyan

9/22, 10/20, 11/17, 12/15, 12:00-1:30 PM, Zoom

Led by Beth Am Congregants

All are welcome to participate in this lively and thought-provoking exploration of topics at the intersection of philosophy, Jewish thought and contemporary issues. Whether you are a seeker, a skeptic, a believer or a doubter, the human condition presents all of us with moral choices, ethical dilemmas and timeless questions. If you would like to be added to the email list for monthly reminders and the Zoom link, or have a great topic to suggest, please contact Shelley Hébert (shelley.s.hebert@gmail.com).

Mishkan Project - A Writing Workshop

Wednesdays, 10/6 - 11/17, 7:00-8:15 PM

Facilitated by Kristen Yawitz

We are in a wilderness moment, a time of not knowing. The global pandemic, climate change impacts, social and political turmoil have many of us looking for—and not finding—a roadmap for how to navigate uncertainty that's sticking around. The Israelites constructed the Mishkan, or Tabernacle, in a wilderness moment. This 7-week writing workshop will consider that collective building of a portable space for the Sacred as one meaningful roadmap. Together we will ask, what would I offer? What would that home for the Sacred contain? We will use free writing exercises, readings, music and visual art to explore personal sources of meaning and hope, to discover and share with others what sustains us in these challenging times. No writing experience is required.

Register here: betham.org/event/mishkan-project

The Existential Threat of Climate Change: Why Is this a Jewish Issue and What Can We Do?

Sundays, 10/17 and 10/24, 1:00 PM

Taught by Rabbi Jon Prosnit and Representatives of the Legal Pathways to Deep Decarbonization Project

The disastrous consequences and frightening momentum of climate change is becoming

increasingly evident. What can we do? In the first session, Rabbi Prosnit will present a framework for why combating climate change is a Jewish issue and then, led by the leadership team of Legal Pathways to Deep Decarbonization Project (www.lpdd.org), we will discuss current assessments of climate change and the need to help formulate model regulations for deep decarbonization. In the second session, we will share ideas, resources, and specific actions on how we can reduce our carbon footprint. These sessions will challenge each of us to take responsibility and action to help combat this existential threat.

Foundations for a Thoughtful Judaism (FTJ) - A Class for Parents of 7th-12th Graders

Wednesdays, 10/27, 11/3, 11/10, 11/17, 6:30-8:15 PM

Taught by Rabbi Jeremy Morrison

Developed by the Shalom Hartman Institute, Foundations for a Thoughtful Judaism is a groundbreaking course designed to give even beginners access to deep Jewish thought. This sophisticated curriculum is not a 'how-to' Judaism; instead, we will explore together philosophical questions on Jewish peoplehood, faith, ethics, and practice that are at the heart of Jewish tradition. This course is for parents with children in 7th - 12th grade and coincides with our Teen Education Program.

Spring Semester

The Origins of the Torah and How to Read It, Part II: Leviticus and Deuteronomy

Wednesdays: 1/12, 1/19, 1/22, 1/29, 7:00-8:30 PM

Taught by Rabbi Jeremy Morrison

In this four-session course, Rabbi Morrison will elucidate methods for reading the Torah that are central to Reform Judaism's orientations to reading sacred texts, but are not frequently utilized in synagogue settings. Participants will discuss myth and metaphor and the Torah's literary history in order to uncover the ancient meanings of Priestly and

Deuteronomic texts, and to determine their relevance to modern day Jews and the world in which we live. You do not need to have taken Part I (Genesis and Exodus) in order to enroll.

A Tool Box for Reading Torah: A Class for Parents of 6th-7th Graders

Sundays, 2/6, 2/13, 10-11:30 AM

Taught by Rabbi Jeremy Morrison

Join with Rabbi Morrison to explore the orientations to reading the Torah that the clergy are teaching to our middle-school students and inform much of the teaching of Torah in our community. This is a great opportunity to meet Rabbi Morrison as well as other parents of our middle school cohort, and to engage with the Book of Genesis in thought-provoking ways.

Jewish Artists and the Feminist Art Movement

Mondays, 2/7, 2/28, 3/14, 3/28, 4/11, 4/25, 5/9, 5/23, 4:30-5:45 PM

Taught by Alex Lyon

While women have been creating art for centuries, often these works were relegated to the category of craft and not considered as important. By the 1960s, coupled with the socio-political climate, the art world in the United States began to shift, with women artists focusing on feminist topics and creating collaborative spaces of their own. This series will focus on Jewish American women artists of the 1960s and 1970s, the Feminist Art Movement, and the role that Judaism played in many of these artists' lives. Tuition: \$72

The World of the Chasidim: Rebbe Nachman of Bratslav

Thursdays, 3/24, 3/31, and 4/7, 7:00-8:30 PM

Taught by Rabbi Sarah Weissman

Nachman of Bratslav (1772-1811) was one of the most influential chasidic rebbes, known for his Torah scholarship, piety, storytelling, and charisma. We'll explore some of the central ideas of chasidism through the lens of Rebbe Nachman's life and writings.